

Alumni Association of the Training School for Nurses
of Philadelphia General Hospital

Collection, 1874-1991

MC 71

Extent:

2.3 linear foot

Provenance:

Alumnae Association of Philadelphia General Hospital

Access:

This collection is unrestricted

Citation:

Center for the Study of the History of Nursing, School of Nursing, University of Pennsylvania

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Historical Sketch. Originally called the Alice Fisher Alumnae Club after the founder of the Philadelphia General Hospital's Training School for Nurses, the Alumnae Association of the Philadelphia General Hospital was formed on January 1893 by 130 graduates of the training school. A house was rented at 804 Pine Street to be used for Club meetings. There, graduates of PGH could get together for social occasions or simply to rest. One of the first large undertakings of the group was the compilation of the Alice Fisher Memorial Home Fund on May 1909, to commemorate the twenty-fifth anniversary of Alice Fisher's death. Donations were solicited through a form letter sent out to graduates. This fund was to be used for the care of sick or needy graduate nurses.

In 1911, the Alice Fisher Alumnae Club became incorporated as the Nurses Alumnae Association of the Philadelphia General Hospital. The official charter is dated July 12, 1912. The purpose of the organization: "to advance the standing and interests of the graduates of the Training School for Nurses of the Philadelphia General Hospital to extend aid to those in trouble or sickness, to promote social intercourse and good fellowship among its members, and to raise the standard of nursing to the highest plane" (see Charter and By-laws, 1972).

Both the Alice Fisher Memorial Fund and the Estell Pettit Lank (class of 1909) Legacy have contributed to the Association's caring of sick graduates. By 1972, the Association was working in conjuncture with PGH to provide for alumnae. The hospital had set aside a suite of three rooms for alumnae hospitalization, provided that the Alumnae Association pay for the furniture in the room. Any member was eligible for service, with applications for admission made to the Professional Service Director of the Hospital through the Director of Nursing. The maximum stay was thirty days.

Finally, the Association provided scholarships to needy nursing students.

In 1977, the Philadelphia General Hospital was closed. Today, the Alumnae Association still works on preserving the memory of the organization through reunions, written histories, and events such as the annual procession to Alice Fisher's grave.

Summary. This collection consists of many aspects of the Alumnae Association's operations. The largest section consists of the annual reports of the organization, dating back to 1915. This bulletins describe the association's activities within the community and hospital, as well as listings of officers and new PGH graduates. The collection also has the personal papers of Alice Fisher and Josephine Spengler. Alice Fisher's papers include information for admission into the training school, and a hand-written exam Fisher gave to students. Josephine Spengler, Class of 1926, collected many articles on PGH, as well as her own articles and speeches. Included also are two books documenting the history of the Philadelphia General Hospital. Finally, there is documentation of the administrative aspects of the organization. This includes charters and by-laws, as well as artifacts and photographs.

Series Description. This collection has been arranged into four series:

Series I. Bulletins, 1915-1991

**Alumni Association of the Training School for Nurses
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- Series II. Personal Papers, 1874-1890
- Series III. Publications, 1916-1954
- Series IV. Administration, 1885-1970s

Series I. Bulletins, 1915-1991 This includes most of the bulletins issued by the Alumnae Association from 1915 through 1991. These bulletins are the annual reports of the Alumnae Association, organized in April 1893 and incorporated in October 1911. Articles include biographies on such PGH nurses as S. Lillian Clayton, lists of graduating nurses for the year, and descriptions of Philadelphia General Hospital's work and mission. The bulletin are highlighted with photographs of individuals and buildings.

Series II. Personal Papers, 1874-1890 This series includes the papers of Alice Fisher and Josephine Spengler. Alice Fisher's documents include her correspondence and will, exams, articles, and memoriam. The Josephine Spengler section has newspaper clippings of PGH as well as her speeches, letters, and articles.

Series III. Publications, 1916-1954 This series contains two articles as well as two books written on the history of the Philadelphia General Hospital. Blockley Days is the earliest book, recollecting Arthur Ames Bliss experiences as a resident physician at Blockley from 1883-1884. John Welsh Croskey wrote a comprehensive institutional history, History of Blockley which was published in 1929. The two articles are slightly more recent, published in 1932 and 1954, respectively.

Series IV. Administration, 1885-1970s This series consists of three parts. The first is a collection of printed material, including the history of the alumnae association, banquet programs, charter of by-laws, and statement of purpose. The second part is a small collection of artifacts, including nursing caps, a gavel presented to Miss M. Malloway, the PGH nursing pins, and diplomas. The third and final part consists of forty-eight photographs donated by the Alumnae Association. These images include both pictures of hospital activities and alumnae events.

Series I. Bulletins, 1915-1991

Box 1

- f.1 1915-1929
- f.2 1930-1933
- f.3 1933-1934
- f.4 1934
- f.5 1934-1935
- f.6 1935-1936
- f.7 1936
- f.8 1936-1937

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f.9	1938
f.10	1939
f.11	1940
f.12	1941
f.13	1942
f.14	1943
f.15	1944
f.16	1945
f.17	1946
f.18	1947
f.19	1948
f.20	1949

Box 2

f.21	1950
f.22	1951
f.23	1952
f.24	1953
f.25	1954
f.26	1955
f.27	1956
f.28	1957
f.29	1958
f.30	1959
f.31	1960
f.32	1961
f.33	1962
f.34	1963
f.35	1964

Box 3

f.36	1965
f.37	1966
f.38	1967
f.39	1968
f.40	1969
f.41	1970-1971
f.42	1972
f.43	1973
f.44	1974
f.45	1975-1976
f.46	1977-1978

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- f.47 1979-1980
- f.48 1981-1982
- f.49 1983-1984
- f.50 1985-1986
- f.51 1987
- f.52 1988-1989
- f.53 1990-1991

Series II. Personal Papers, 1874-1890

Box 4

Alice Fisher

- f.1 Pamphlet, Information for Applicants for Admission into Philadelphia Hospital Training School for Nurses, 1890
- f.2 1 page examination, handwritten by Alice Fisher, c1885-1888
- f.3 Correspondence and Will, c1885-1888
- f.4 Notes, re: Alice Fisher's grave, 1916 and n.d.
- f.5 Printed biographical article, re: Alice Fisher, c1889
- f.6 In Memoriam, posthumous tribute to Alice Fisher, printed volume c1889, printed testimonial, n.d.
Josephine Spengler, PGH Class of 1926
- f.7 Newspaper clippings, PGH, c1965-1976; Letter to the Philadelphia Inquirer, c1962
- f.8 PGH brochures, 1950-1970s
- f.9 Speeches, letters, papers, 1950s-83: historical sketches of PGH and AATSN and Alice Fisher Memorial Fund; correspondence on Alice Fisher's background; Dora Mathis Award; speeches and prose
- f.10 Leaders of American Nursing Calendar, 1924

Series III. Publications, 1916-1954

Box 5

- f.1 Two articles: The Girard Letter, "Philadelphia General Hospital" December 1932; and "Tribute to Blockley" by Pascal F. Luchessi, M.D. July 10, 1954
Book: The History of Blockley, by John Welsh Croskey, 1929
Book: Blockley Days: The Memories and Impressions of a Resident Physician, 1883-1884, by Arthur Ames Bliss, 1916

Series IV. Administrative Records, 1885-1970s

Box 6

- f.1 Alice Fisher Alumnae Club Illustrated Souvenir Book, c1891
- f.2 History of Alumnae Association, 1988; Charter and by-laws, c1962 and n.d.
- f.3 Report of the Training School and the Alumnae Association, 1885-1914;

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- Course of instructions, 1913-1914; and list of graduates and where employed
- f.4 Annual banquet programs, 1933-1976
- f.5 PGH Association of Ex-resident and Resident Physicians with Dr. Phaler's speech,
- f.6 Collection of programs and services, 1933-1948 and 1966-1968
- f.7 Alumnae Association 40th Anniversary, 1933; List of officers, 1949; Summary of contributions to PGH, 1950; Annual Banquet, 1958; Correspondence regarding Alice Fisher memorial, 1963; Address to the Nursing School, June 19
- f.8 Charter of by-laws of Alumnae Association, 1972
- f.9 Letters re: positions of Director and Associate Director, 1964

Box 7

Collection of Diplomas
Annie Bright, 1888
Lottie Vieth, 1888
Clara Elizabeth Heibeck, 1896
Emilie Riegel Schneider, 1909

Box 8

Artifacts
Organdy fabric used for making caps, brought in by Mr. Sampson
2 white nurses caps with black trim
1 plain white nurses cap, no trim
1 plain white nurses cap no trim, in plastic cover
Black gavel, inscribed: "To Miss M. Malloway with affectionate greeting, from the Alice Fisher Alumnae, 1906"
PGH pins, no date

Box 9

Photographs
Philadelphia General Hospital

p.1 Kathryn Campbell Graham, c1954 (picture was used in "Scope")

p.2 Nurses with children and two women, c1960s

p.2a Nurses with children and two women, c1960s

p.3 Nurse with little boy, c1960s

p.4 Nurse with children, c1960s

p.5 Woman with crutches attempting to walk towards a nurse, c1960s

p.6 Two children standing in a crib and nurse, c1960s

p.7 Little girl in crib and a nurse, c1960s

p.8 Nurse listening to patient's heart, c1960s

p.9 Nurse assisting a doctor, c1960s

p.10 Doctors conferencing at desk, c1960s

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- p.11 Nurse and female doctor with patient, c1960s
- p.12 Nurses checking reports, c1960s
- p.13 Medical equipment
- p.14 Coronary Care Unit
- p.15 Nurse and patient with crutches, cut out from a PR brochure
- p.16 Philadelphia General Hospital
- p.17 Nurse receiving an award, c1970s
- p.18 Katie Ulshafer, c1971
- p.19 Evelyn Carpenter, c1970
 - Alumnae Association Activities
- p.20-35 Event, 1970s
- p.36-40 Special Occasion, 1970s (with negatives)
- p.41-48 Event, 1970s (with negatives)